Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02223 072004Z ACTION NEA-10

O 071835Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 210

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2223

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJ: INITIAL ELECTION RETURNS

1. AS OF 2200 HOURS PAKISTAN TIME, SIX HOURS AFTER POLLS CLOSED, UNOFFICIAL INCOMPLETE RETURNS GIVEN ON PAK T.V GIVE PPP A COMMANDING LEAD. FIGURES FROM 129 OF 200 CONSTITUENCIES SHOW PPP WINNING OR LEADING IN 99 (INCLUDING 19 UNCONTESTED SEATS IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN), PNA IN 25, QAIYUM LEAGUE IN ONE, INDEPENDENTS/TRIBAL CANDIDATES IN THREE, AND THE PAKTUNHWA NAP IN ONE. PPP IS RUNNING UP BIG LEAD IN PUNJAB, WHERE IT HAS WON OR IS AHEAD IN 59 CONSTITUENCIES TO PNA'S 10. PPP IS AHEAD IN ALL FOUR LAHORE CONSTITUENCIES REPORTING IN SO FAR (THERE IS A DISTRICT TOTAL OF EIGHT) AND APPEARS TO HAVE WON BOTH THE ISLAMABAD AND RAWALPINDI CITY SEATS, BEATING ASGHAR KHAN IN LATTER. ALL PPP CENTRAL CABINET MINISTERS APPEAR TO BE WINNING THEIR CONTESTS. PNA'S UNCLASSIFIED

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BEST PROVINCIAL SHOWING SO FAR IS IN MULTANN(WHERE IT IS LEADING IN FOUR RACES TO THE PPP'S FIVE), BUT IN MOST PUNJAB CONSTITUENCIES IT IS RUNNING FAR BEHIND. PNA LEADER MUFTI MAHMUD IS LOSING BOTH HIS RACES.

2. IN SIND, PPP HAS WON OR IS AHEAD IN 28 CONSTITUENCIES (15 UNCONTESTED) TO 8 FOR PNA. ALLIANCE IS DOING WELL IN

KARACHI (WHERE ASGHAR KHAN HAS A NARROW LEAD) AND HYDERABAD. NWFP IS CLOSELY CONTESTED, PPP AHEAD IN SIX, PNA IN SEVEN, QAIYUM LEAGUE IN ONE. PPP IS AHEAD IN TWO OF THE THREE CONTESTED BALUCHISTAN SEATS (IT WON THE FOUR UNCONTESTED SEATS) AND TRAILS THE PAKTUNHWA NAP IN ONE.

3. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER LATE RETURNS AT 0900 LOCAL TIME MARACH 8. BYROADE

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NNN

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